United Nations A/56/459

General Assembly

Distr.: General
11 October 2001

Original: English

Fifty-sixth session
Agenda item 12
Report of the Economic and Social Council

United Nations Population Award

Note by the Secretary-General*

The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the members of the General Assembly the report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund on the United Nations Population Award, established by the Assembly in its resolution 36/201 of 17 December 1981. The report, which covers 2001, was prepared in accordance with Economic and Social Council decision 1982/112 of 26 April 1982.

Report on the United Nations Population Award (2001)

I. Introduction

1. On 17 December 1981, by its resolution 36/201, the General Assembly established the United Nations Population Award. The Award is presented annually to an individual or individuals, to an institution or institutions or to any combination thereof for the most outstanding contribution to increasing awareness of population questions or to finding solutions to them.

2. The laureate is selected by the Committee for the United Nations Population Award, which is composed of representatives of 10 States Members of the United Nations elected by the Economic and Social Council for a period of three years.

3. On 5 December 1986, by its decision 41/445, the General Assembly amended article 2, paragraph 1, of the regulations governing the Award (resolution 36/201, annex), so that an individual and an institution could share the Award.

4. On 26 May 1987, by its decision 1987/129, the Economic and Social Council amended the rules of procedure of the Committee for the Population Award accordingly.

* The footnote requested by General Assembly resolution 54/248 was not included in the submission.

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5. On 3 May 2000, the Economic and Social Council selected the following countries to serve on the Committee for a period of three years beginning in January 2001: Burundi, Cape Verde, Kyrgyz Republic, Lesotho, Netherlands and Republic of Moldova. The Secretary-General and the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund serve as ex-officio members. The Executive Director also acts as Secretary of the Committee. The Award consists of a diploma, a gold medal and a monetary prize.

6. On 3 May 2001, the Council elected Haiti to fill a postponed vacancy beginning on the date of the election and expiring on 31 December 2003.

7. Pursuant to Economic and Social Council decision 2001/201 B of 3 May 2001, the Council further postponed to a future session the election of two members from Asian States and one member from Latin American and Caribbean States for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 2003.

8. On 10 May 2001, the Committee elected Pierre Lelong (Haiti) as Chairman.

II. The 2001 United Nations Population Award

9. A total of 10 nominations from qualified nominators were received for the 2001 United Nations Population Award. Of these, eight were for the individual category and two for the institutional category. In May 2001, within the mandate given to it by the General Assembly, and after a thorough review of the nominations, the Committee selected Nafis Sadik in the individual category and the Japanese Organization for International Cooperation in Family Planning in the institutional category, as the laureates for 2001.

10. Dr. Nafis Sadik was selected in view of her tremendous impact on population and development issues during her tenure as Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund. She led the world's largest source of multilateral assistance to population programmes. The influence of the Fund on world population policy is arguably stronger than that of any other agency or organization, largely because it speaks on behalf of all nations. Dr. Sadik made significant contributions during the International Conference on Population and Development, held in Cairo in 1994. The International Conference resulted in enormous changes to the field of population. The Conference saw a change in global consensus that put human rights, and specifically women's rights, at the heart of the population debate. Dr. Sadik was particularly effective in steering this consensus throughout the Conference because of her personal commitment to issues of women's rights and women's health and because of her exceptional leadership skills.

11. The Japanese Organization for International Cooperation in Family Planning was selected because of its outstanding contribution to population issues in the developing world as well as in Japan. It is the most experienced Japanese non-governmental organization internationally active in the field of population and reproductive health, with projects in 26 countries in Asia, Latin America and Africa, and is especially committed to contributing to health and education. The Japanese Organization for International Cooperation in Faculty Planning has contributed to population questions and to their solutions in three major areas: the community-operated integrated approach to family planning; the sharing of Japanese expertise through human resource development; and what the organization calls

"multidimensional advocacy and resource development for the issues of population and reproductive health/reproductive rights". Since the adoption of the Programme of Action at the International Conference on Population and Development in 1994, and the five-year follow-up to the Conference in 2000, the Japanese approach of integrating family planning into maternal and child health has gained much attention.

III. Financial matters

12. As at 1 January 2000, the Trust Fund had a total of $760,858. Interest income in 2000 was $10,599. Expenditures in 2000, including the prizes, totalled $53,761. The closing balance as at 31 December 2000 totalled $717,696.